

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 /072 W

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R 101655Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6737

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 6133

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SP, CU

1. ON AUGUST 6 CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER ROA PASSED THROUGH MADRID ON HIS WAY TO COLOMBO AND THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AS IS THE CUSTOM, THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER MET ROA AT THE AIRPORT AND HAD A CHAT. THE PRESS HAS SPECULATED THAT THIS WOULD LEAD TO A VISIT BY CASTRO TO SPAIN. BUT WE DOUBT IT SINCE A VISIT BY CASTRO-- WITH THE CUBAN EMBASSY QUITE POLITICALLY ACTIVE HERE. WOULD NOT PARTICULARLY BE THE SORT OF THING THAT WOULD INTEREST THE SUAREZ GOVT. AND MFA SOURCE HAS CONFIRMED THAT THERE IS NOTHING TO THE STORY, AND ADDED THAT OREJA TOLD THEM THE MATTER OF CASTRO VISIT DID NOT EVEN COME UP AT THE AIRPORT AT THE STATE TO STATE LEVEL. THE PRINCIPAL CUBAN SPANISH ISSUE HAS BEEN THE SHORTAGE OF CUBAN CIGARS, NO SMALL MATTER HERE, BUT WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN RESOLVED

2. THIS MORNING'S ABC CARRIES AN EFE (SPANISH WIRE SERVICE) REPORT FROM HAVAVA STATING OFFICIAL CUBAN SOURCES SAID THERE WAS "STILL NO OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION" ABOUT A CASTRO VISIT. BUT IT ALSO GOES ON TO SAY THAT "FOREIGN SOURCES" IN HAVANA SAY THIS HAS BECOME A PRIORITY PROJECT FOR THE CUBANS. THE PRESS CITES THE GENERALLY GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN SPAIN
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AND CUBA, AND AFFIRMS IN DELPHIC FASHION THAT IF CASTRO

CAME HE COULD NOT DO SO SIMPLY AS THE FIRST SECRETARY
OF THE CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY, BUT ALSO AS PRIME MINISTER
OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT. IT ADDS,
PRESUMABLY FROM CUBAN SOURCES, THAT A CASTRO VISIT WOULD
NOT BE DIRECTED TO HELP ANY ONE OF THE POLITICAL
PARTIES IN SPAIN, BUT WOULD REALLY BE A MATTER OF A
SPANISH CUBAN NATURE. ALL THIS SUGGESTS A CUBAN EFFORT
TO PERSUADE THE SPANISH THAT A CASTRO VISIT WOULD BE
A GOOD THING.
STABLER

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